Friends + delicious fare + sunshine = Picnic '77

Gather about 10,000 adults and 28,000 kids in a sprawling 12-acre site shaded by pines and oaks. . .add some refreshment stands and a wide assortment of rides and entertainment. What do you have? The 1977 Grumman Aerospace Family Picnic.

Grumman's long-time tradition of supplying "nothing but the best" continues to stand unshaken. Just ask any member of the Grumman family who attended the annual summer extravaganza on Saturday, July 16, at Calverton.

The blistering 98-degree heat might have slowed down some of the less energetic, but the kids had little trouble setting — and keeping — a high-stepping pace.

As early as 7 a.m., cars began streaming into the picnic grounds. Veteran picnickers had car windows wide open for "freebies" tossed into their cars by ESO, and, in some cases, the distributors patiently waited for first-time attendees to roll down their car windows for the treats.

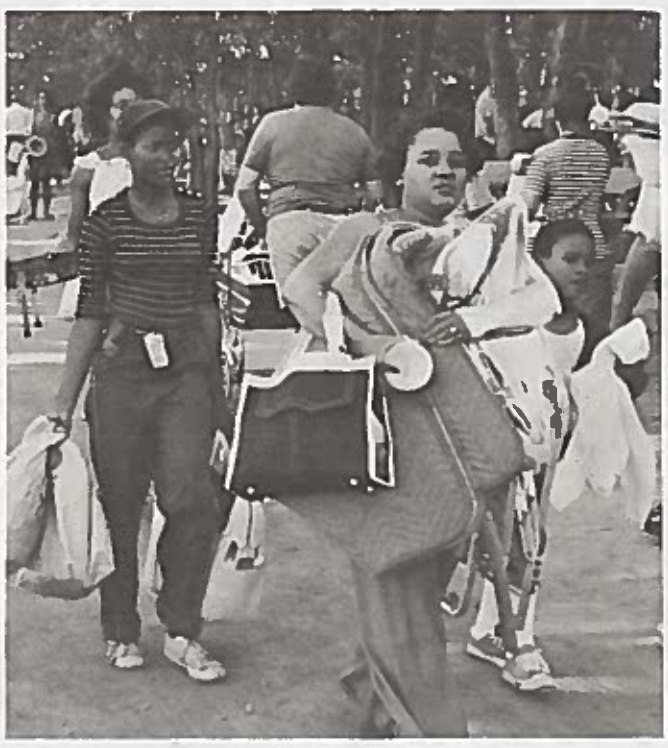
Many came well equipped for the day-long outing. Hibachis, frisbees, footballs, folding chairs, playpens, coolers, and blankets were evident everywhere. One pleasure seeking soul even supplied his own portable fan.

The tantalizing aroma of hot dogs being prepared at refreshment stands mixed gastronomically with that of other outdoor fare being grilled on family barbeques.

According to Charlie Fuschillo, head of Employee Services, the picnickers ran up an impressive grocery list. During the course of the day, over two tons of hot dogs and 30,000 cups of ice cream were devoured by the Grumman crowd, and over 77,000 cups of soda and 72,000 glasses of beer were emptied.

The 1977 family outing officially kicked off at 10 a.m. when Grumman Corporation President Joe Gavin and Grumman Aerospace Chairman and President George Skurla performed the flag-raising duties. Also on hand during the annual Grumman event were Grumman Corporation Chairman Jack Bierwirth and his family.

As one o'clock neared, the grass near the bandstand became covered with children anxiously awaiting the hour-long entertainment show. To the delight of the crowd, comic Charlie Franks, a Chaplin look-alike, produced dozens of eggs from his mouth, and yards and

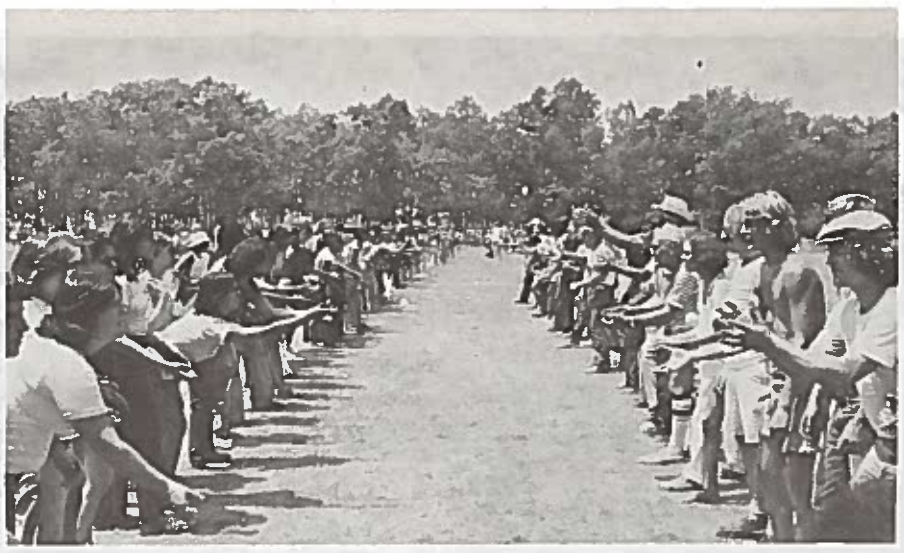


yards of sausage from his paper bag. Then, Bobby Carroll, billed as "The World's Greatest Banjo Player," drew laughs and applause by playing his instrument the hard way — in back of his head. Small folks got into the act too, at the invitation of balloon artists, "Bob Rollins and His Fair Lady." But the highlight of the entire show was "Eric the Great." Some kids never witnessed the breathtaking finale of his daredevil performance 50 feet above the ground — their hands were covering their eyes.

Immediately following the show, the crowd moved over to the Junior Gloves boxing ring to see the little fellows punch it out in the small fry bouts. In the 35 bouts, everyone was a winner.

Strolling across the grounds, squeals of thrills and pleasure filled the air from the younger set as they spun about on the various rides. Long lines waiting for hit attractions such as the Caterpillar and Tilt-a-Whirl didn't dampen the spirits of the amusement seekers either.

Of course, there were sporting events. After the five-to-14-year-olds finished running 50 yard dashes, the light-hearted competition began: 30-yard potato sack races, wheelbarrow races, three-legged races, shoe races, a fat-man's race,



and so on. The top event, once again, was the ever-popular egg-tossing contest between husband and wife. Who won?. .the lucky partner who made the last toss.

Not everyone got into the act. Some casually strolled beneath the pines in search of old time buddies, while others found tranquility dozing in a quiet spot at the picnic site.

Throughout the day, the Grumman Employees Band and the Grummanites' Rock Band filled the sound waves with music ranging from "oomp, pah, pahs" to the latest disco cut. At mid-day, the Minutemen Drum Corps of Long Island, led an impromptu parade of youngsters about the grounds. A year after our nation's Bicentennial, they were still a picnic favorite.

If all those activities weren't enough to keep even the most hyper-active picnicker busy, there was plenty of wide open fields to do your own thing. Kite flying, pick-up games of softball and volleyball, and insect hunting were just a few of the favorite pastimes. Some just stretched out in the field, absorbing the sun's rays for a perfect tan, while watching helium-filled balloons (courtesy of Grumman's Safety department) disappear into the hazy sky.

The annual gathering of Grummanites and their families continued to hold on to its "second to none" rating. . .thanks largely to the fellow Grummanites who gave up their Saturday to guarantee a memorable day for all.

On behalf of the 38,000 or more picnickers, PLANE NEWS salutes all those who set up this year's scenario for another great Grumman Family Picnic.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

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